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Miscellaneous Reading.

Decline of manhood.

So universal and long-continued have been the violations of the Physical Laws, and so omnipresent is human suffering as the consequence, that the very tradition of a perfect state of health has died out from among men. We are wont to the presence of debility and pain. Religious men teach us to accept weakness and suffering as the appointed lot of humanity. Hence the conditions of health and longevity are not merely disregarded but ignored, and men of the profoundest learning on other subjects are here ignorant of elements. University professors know how to take care of the solar system, but do not know how to take care of their own systems. I admire the rules of prosody by which Greek and Latin verse flow into harmonious numbers, but I prefer the tuncful pulse which never makes an allusion to any music of classical scanning.

I once knew a professor of Rhetoric in an American college, who choked himself to death at a dinner party with an undivided piece of mutton. He knew to a semitone the rhetorical proportions in which breath should be sent out of the lungs, but was ignorant of the physiological quantities in which food should be taken into the stomach. Clergymen are forever exhorting us to keep our spirits clean and pure, and then, in their outer man, they exemplify their teachings by all the defilements of tobacco. They are Bonapartes for the advancement of their own sect, but disdain companionship with that sect of the Nazirites who drank no wine. Statesmen and learned doctors debate and discuss the minor questions of political economy; but forget that a blight on public health is more peculiarly disastrous than mildewed crops, and that the most adverse balances of trade are less impoverishing than the expenditures for sickness, the non-productiveness of bodily imbecility, and the costs of vice and crime.

I hold it to be morally impossible for God to have created, in the beginning, such men and women as we find the human race, in their physical condition now to be. Examine the book of Genesis, which contains the earliest annals of the human family. As is commonly supposed, it comprises the first twenty-three hundred and sixty-five years of human history. With child-like simplicity this book describes the infancy of mankind. Unlike modern histories, it details the minutest circumstances of social and individual life. Indeed it is rather a series of biographies than a history. The false delicacy of modern times did not forbid the mention of whatever was done or suffered. And yet, over all that expanse of time—for more than one-third part of the duration of the human race—not a single instance is recorded of a child born blind, or deaf, or dumb, or idiotic, or malformed in any way! During the whole period, not a single case of natural death in infancy, or childhood, or early manhood; or even of middle manhood, is to be found. Not one man or woman died of disease. The simple record is, "and he died," or, he, died "in a good old age and full of years," or, he was "old and full of days."—No epidemic, nor even endemic disease prevailed, showing that they died the natural death of healthy men, and not the unnatural death of debilitated ones. Through all this time, (except in the single case of Jacob, in his old age, and then only a day or two before his death,) it does not appear that any old lady or young lady ever fainted. Bodily pain from disease is nowhere mentioned. No cholera infantum, scarlatina, measles, small-pox—not even a toothache! So extraordinary a thing was it for a son to die before his father, that an instance of it is deemed worthy of special notice; and this first case of the reversal of nature's laws was two thousand years after the creation of Adam. See how this reversal of nature's law has, for us, become the law; for how rare is it now for all the children of a family to survive the parents. Rachel died at the birth of Benjamin; but this is the only case of puerperal death mentioned in the first twenty-four hundred years of the sacred history; and even this happened during the fatigues of a patriarchal journey, when passengers were not wafted along in the saloons of a rail car or steam boat. Had Adam, think you, tuberculous lungs? Was Eve flat-chested, or did she cultivate the serpentine line of grace in a curved spine? Did Nimrod get up in the morning with furred tongue, or was he tormented with the dyspepsia? Had Esau the gout or hepatitis? Imagine how the tough old patriarchs would have looked at being asked to subscribe for a laying-in hospital, or an asylum for lunatics, or an eye and ear infirmary, or a school for idiots or deaf mutes. What would their eagle-vision and swift-footedness have said to the project of a blind asylum, or an orthopedic establishment? Did they suffer any of these reverses of nature against false civilization? No! Man came from the hand of God so perfect in his bodily organs, so defiant of cold and heat, of drought and humidity, so surcharged with vital forces, that it took more than two thousand years of the combined abominations of appetite and ignorance; it took successive ages of outrageous excess, and debauchery, to drain off his electric energies

and make him even accessible to disease; and then it took ages more to breed all these vile distempers which now nestle, like vermin, in every organ and fiber of our bodies!

During all this time, however, the fatal cases were at work, which wore away and finally exhausted the glorious and abounding vigor of the pristine race. At least as early as the third generation from Adam, polygamy began. Intermarriages were all along the order of the day. Even Abraham married his half-sister. The basest harlotry was not beneath one of the patriarchs. * * * * * If its greatest men, its wisest men, its God-favored men, like David, could be guilty of murder for the sake of adultery; or, like Solomon, could keep a seraglio of a thousand wives and concubines; what blackness can be black enough to paint the portrait of the people they ruled?

After the Exodus, excesses rapidly developed into diseases. First came cutaneous distempers—leprosy, boils, elephantiasis, and so forth—the common effort of nature to throw visceral impurities to the surface. As early as King Asa, that right loyal malady, the gout, had been invented. Then came consumptions, and the burning agues, and disorders of the viscera, and pestilences; or, as the bible expresses it, "great plagues, and of long continuance;" until in the time of Christ, we see how diseases of all kinds had become the common lot of mankind, by the crowds that flocked to him to be healed. And so frightfully, so disgracefully numerous, have diseases now become, that if we were to write down their names, in the smallest legible hand, on the smallest bits of paper, there would not be room enough on the human body to paste the labels.

From such causes, by adamant laws, and through unalterable predestinations, has come our present dilated and depleted humanity; effete, diseased, and corrupt blood; abnormal, wasted and short-lived; with its manliness so evaporated, and its native fires so quenched, that our present world, compared with what it should be, is but a Lazar-house of disease, and an asylum for the feeble minded.—HORACE MANN.

From the O. S. Journal.

Popular Sovereignty

The Fourth of March has past. The long to be remembered Congress of compact breakers and constituent betrayers has dispersed; "popular sovereignty" has worked very differently in the case of most of its members, from their own fond anticipations, and "the places that have once known them will know them no more forever." When the late Congress assembled, it divided the country in peace and quietness; the murmurs of sectional discord were hushed. Before it closed its first session, by the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and the throwing open to slavery all the territories of the Union, it had destroyed all future confidence between the Free and Slave States, and stirred up, through the masses of the people of the Free States, a deep-seated and burning sense of the wrong done them, which, in the late elections, found some vent on the heads of the traitor representatives of the North. This feeling will continue to agitate the Union until the territory be restored to Freedom, which, by an infamous fraud, has been exposed to the chances of Slavery.

The insulting taunts of the minions of Douglas and the Administration to go and fight the "black plague" now trying to spread itself over the fair territory of Kansas, after they themselves have invited it to walk in on equatorial terms with freedom, will not be forgotten. Their sincerity will now be soon tested, by ascertaining if they are willing to support any measure for the protection of their own banishing, "popular sovereignty," and the prevention of citizens of Missouri, pouring illegal votes into the Territory, for the purpose of controlling and overruling the bona fide squatters. The frauds committed in the election of General Whitfield, the late delegate, are notorious, and also the preparations now making by the Atchison faction of pipe layers in Missouri, to import enough votes to control the character of the Legislature to be elected on the 13th of March, notwithstanding the efforts of Governor Reeder to protect the polls. Yet not a whisper is raised against the outrage by the Douglas "popular sovereignty" organs in the Free States.

Congress adjourned without looking into the matter; and while perhaps it was too much to expect from a set of Representatives so universally condemned, that they would retract their steps, and, in obedience to the clearly expressed popular will, restore the Slavery prohibition that had been repealed, honesty required that they should pass some law that would give "popular sovereignty" fair play in Kansas, and punish the residents of Missouri who by illegal voting, were interfering with the rights of the bona fide squatters. Neither the President nor S. A. Douglas have shown any disposition to move in the matter, on the contrary it is well known that Gov. Reeder is denounced in Missouri by the Atchison paper as an abolitionist, because he protests against such interference; and efforts are making to have him removed, simply because, like many an Ohio Nebraskite, he was green enough to believe Douglas meant what he said, when he talked about "popular sovereignty."

The plan of the pro-slavery party is, evi-

dently, by fraud, to get control of the first legislature in Kansas—legalize slavery, and then raise the cry, with their doughface allies in the free States, that we must acquiesce!—Former citizens of Ohio now in Kansas, write that at the late election for Delegate, Missouri, in some instances voted six times at the same polls; and with arms in their hands surrounded the polls, requiring voters to show their tickets, and threatening every one suspected of being unfavorable to the pro-slavery candidate. Kansas cast nearly 3000 votes, while Nebraska polled but 1000—another proof of the large importation of Missourians.

Now it is certain that a large majority of the Congressmen just elected by the people will not be disposed to tolerate such a course of proceedings; and though the hold-over Senators, in defiance of the expressed will of their constituents, may refuse to obey instructions, like Cass, and restore the slavery prohibition of the Missouri compromise, yet they will hardly dare to vote against a bill to protect "popular sovereignty" which the next lower House should forthwith pass, punishing with severe pecuniary penalties, similar to our Ohio election law, the illegal voters from Missouri, who shall again attempt to interfere with the Kansas elections. If the President, under the behests of the slave power, should veto such a measure, demanded as it will be by the honest men of all parties in the country, it will be easy to insert it in the general appropriation bill and stick by it. Such a law would tend, in some degree, to restrain the aggression of the slave power by preventing Missouri from governing Kansas, until at the next Presidential election, the people get a fair sweep at the powers that be; and then the full way of freedom will be reestablished by the "popular sovereignty" of the whole nation.

The late Nebraska "popular sovereignty" House of Representatives passed a law repealing a Railroad charter, granted by the Minnesota Legislature—certainly no greater attempt to regulate the domestic legislation of a territory, than a law to prevent citizens of Missouri from voting at the Kansas elections. What say the Douglas doughface press of Ohio to the constitutionality of such a law? Are they in favor of permitting the frauds in Kansas on the rights of bona fide squatters? These illegal voters will control the Kansas Legislature; therefore they will be unable to protect themselves. What issue in Ohio does "Sam" join? Let him speak—or he will be suspected of being a "Know-Nothing" until he hears from Washington.

Old Soldier's Bounty Land Bill, as it passed both Houses of Congress.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each of the surviving commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, whether of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who were regularly mustered into the service of the United States, and every officer, commissioned or non-commissioned, seaman, ordinary seaman, marine, clerk, and landsman in the navy in any of the wars in which this country has been engaged since seventeen hundred and ninety, and each of the survivors of the militia or volunteers, called into military service, and regularly mustered therein, and whose services have been paid by the United States, shall be entitled to receive a certificate or warrant from the Department of the Interior for one hundred and sixty acres of land; and where any of those who have been so mustered into service and paid, shall have received a certificate or warrant for such quantity of land as will make, in the whole, with what he may have heretofore received one hundred and sixty acres to each such person having served as aforesaid. Provided, That the person so having been in service shall not receive said land warrant if it shall appear by the muster rolls of his regiment or corps that he deserted, or was dishonorably discharged from service.

Provided, further, That the benefits of this act shall be held to extend to wagon masters and teamsters who may have been employed, under the direction of competent authority, at time of war, in the transportation of military stores and supplies.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in case of the death of any person who, if living, would be entitled to a certificate or warrant, as aforesaid, under this act, leaving a widow, or no widow, a minor child or children, such widow, or if no widow, such minor child or children, shall be entitled to receive a certificate or warrant for the same quantity of land as such deceased person would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this act, if now living: Provided, That a subsequent marriage shall not impair the right of any such widow or child, if she be a widow at the time of making her application: And provided, further, That those shall be considered minor who are so at the time this act shall take effect.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That in case of the death of any person who, if living, would be entitled to a certificate or warrant, as aforesaid, under this act, leaving a widow, or no widow, a minor child or children, such widow, or if no widow, such minor child or children, shall be entitled to receive a certificate or warrant for the same quantity of land as such deceased person would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this act, if now living: Provided, That a subsequent marriage shall not impair the right of any such widow or child, if she be a widow at the time of making her application: And provided, further, That those shall be considered minor who are so at the time this act shall take effect.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That said certificates or warrants may be assigned, transferred, and located by the warrantees, their assignees, or their heirs-at-law, according to the provisions of existing laws regulating the assignment, transfer and location of bounty-land warrants.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That no warrant issued under the provisions of this act shall be located on any public lands, except such as shall at the time be subject to sale at either the minimum or lower graduated prices.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the registers and receivers of the several land offices shall be severely authorized to charge and receive for their services in locating all warrants under the provisions of this act the same compensation or per centage to which they are entitled by law for sales of the public lands, for cash, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. The said compensation to be paid by the assignees or holders of such warrants.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of this act, and all the bounty land laws, heretofore passed by Congress, shall be extended to Indians, in the same manner and to the same extent as if the said Indians had been white men.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war, or their widows or minor children, shall be entitled to the benefits of this act.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the benefits of this act shall be applied to and embraced those who served as volunteers at the invasion of Plattsburgh in September, eighteen hundred and fourteen; also, at the battle of King's Mountain in the revolutionary war, and the battle of Nickajack against the confederated savages of the South.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of this act shall apply to the chaplains who served with the arms in the several wars of the country.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of this act shall be applied to flotilla men and to those who served as volunteers at the attack on Lewiston in Delaware, by the British fleet, in the war of eighteen hundred and twelve—fifteen.

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Sunday Reading.

KEEP TO THE RIGHT.
"Keep to the right," as the law directs,
For such is the law of the road;
Keep to the right, whoever expects
Securely to carry Life's load.

Keep to the right with God and the world,
Nor wander, though fully allured;
Keep to the right, nor ever be hurried
From what by the statute is yours.

Keep to the right, within and without—
With stranger, and kindred, and friend;<